

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A device for ~~applying liquid media, particularly culture media and/or reaction media~~ creating hanging drops, characterized in that the device ~~has~~ having at least ~~one~~ two elevations made of a hydrophobic material and with a substantially planar and rectangular top limit surface onto which in each case between 10 and 80 μ l of liquid medium can be applied, the distance between adjacent elevations being at least 0.5 mm, and this planar the elevations ~~has~~ having, ~~[[on]]~~ at the top planar limit surface, ~~at least one, in particular at least two~~ [[,]] sharp-edged boundaries, in particular edges, arranged parallel to one another.
2. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the dimension of a ~~planar~~ one of the at least two elevations in a first direction, ~~preferably in the longitudinal direction~~, is between about 2 and about 7 mm, ~~preferably between about 3 and about 5 mm.~~
3. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the dimension of a ~~planar~~ one of the at least two elevations in a first direction, ~~preferably in the longitudinal direction~~, is between 4 and 7 mm, ~~preferably ca. 5 mm.~~

4. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the dimension of a ~~planar~~ one of the at least two elevations in a second direction, ~~preferably in the transverse direction~~, is between about 3 and about 9 mm, ~~preferably between about 4 and about 7 mm.~~

5. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the dimension of a ~~planar~~ one of the at least two elevations in a second direction, ~~preferably in the transverse direction~~, is between 5 and 9 mm, ~~preferably ca. 7 mm.~~

6. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that one of the planar at least two elevations is a narrow, elongate elevation.

7. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that one of the planar at least two elevations is between 1 and 5 mm high, ~~preferably ca. 2 mm high.~~

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The device as claimed in ~~claim 8~~ claim 1, characterized in that the number of ~~planar~~ the at least two elevations is at least 18 in the ~~longitudinal~~ first direction and at least 9 in the ~~transverse~~ second direction.

10. (currently amended) The device as claimed in ~~claim 8~~ claim 1, characterized in that the number of ~~planar~~ the at least two elevations is 12 in the ~~longitudinal~~ first direction and 8 in the ~~transverse~~ second direction.

11. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the distance between two adjacent ~~planar~~ elevations is ~~between 0.5 and 4 mm, preferably~~ between 1 and 2 mm, ~~in particular ca. 2 mm.~~

12. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that one of the at least two sharp-edged ~~boundary~~ boundaries is designed at an acute angle.

13. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that ~~[[it]]~~ the device has a ~~preferably~~ rectangular main body on which the ~~planar~~ at least two elevations are formed.

14. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the device consists at least partially, ~~preferably completely,~~ of at least one transparent material.

15. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the material is selected from the group consisting of polystyrene and/or Plexiglas.

16. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the dimensions of the device are between 100 and 150 mm, ~~preferably ca. 130 mm~~, in a first direction, ~~preferably in the longitudinal direction~~, and between 80 and 110 mm, ~~preferably ca. 90 mm~~, in a second direction, ~~preferably in the transverse direction~~.

17. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the device has an overall height of between 10 and 30 mm, ~~preferably between 10 and 23 mm~~.

18. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the device has at least one grip, ~~preferably two grips~~.

19. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the device is designed so that it can be placed on a supporting frame, the device ~~preferably~~ being able to be placed thereon with the surface to be loaded, or the loaded surface, facing upward or downward.

20. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the device has at least one support, ~~preferably several supports~~, in particular legs.

21. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that ~~[[it]]~~ the device is designed to be stackable.

22. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 21, characterized in that at ~~least two devices can~~ the device is configured to be releasably secured on ~~one~~ another device having substantially the same configuration as that of the device.

23. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that between ~~10 and 80 μ l, preferably~~ 40 to 50 μ l, of the liquid medium can be applied per elevation.

24. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the device can be turned at least 90°, ~~preferably ca. 180°~~, after application of the liquid ~~media~~ medium.

25. (currently amended) A device for holding the device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the device consists of 2 to 4 spars, ~~in particular 3 spars~~, which form an approximately rectangular frame.

26. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 25, characterized in that, on the upper edges, ~~[[it]]~~ the device has at least one recess, ~~preferably at least two recesses~~, which are provided for receiving corresponding projections on the device to be held on it.

27. (withdrawn) A method for generating suitable reaction and/or cultivation conditions after application of liquid media, characterized by the use of a device having at least one feature of claim 1.

28. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 27, characterized in that the cultivation conditions are proliferation and/or differentiation conditions for eukaryotic cells, in particular human or animal cells.

29. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 27, characterized in that the method is used for the purpose of tissue culture and/or tissue engineering.

30. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 27, characterized in that the cultivation conditions are stimulating and/or inhibiting and/or destroying conditions for the cultivation of tumor cells and/or tumor tissues.

31. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 27, characterized in that the cultivation conditions are growth and/or differentiation conditions for cell aggregates and/or tissues for influencing angiogenic processes in these cell aggregates and/or tissues.

32. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 28, characterized in that the human or animal cells are stem cells, in particular embryonic stem cells.

33. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 32, characterized in that the embryonic stem cells, after application to the device, aggregate and/or differentiate to form embryoid bodies.

34. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 27, characterized in that the reaction conditions are crystallization and/or X-ray structure analysis conditions.

35. (withdrawn) A method using drops as a reaction site, characterized in that a liquid medium is applied to the device as claimed in claim 1, and the device, with the loaded side facing downward, is oriented substantially horizontally or at an angle of about 90° or less to a base.

36. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 35, characterized in that, to remove the drop, the device, with the loaded side facing downward, is brought toward a substantially planar surface in such a way that the drop settles on the surface.

37. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 36, characterized in that the surface is provided with at least one spacer.

38. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 35, characterized in that, to remove the drop, the device, with the loaded side facing downward, is brought toward at least one depression so that the drop touches at least one side wall of the depression and runs down it.

39. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 38, characterized in that the depression is a depression of a microtiter plate.